



IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)
ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
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Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area

Iraq, Agriculture and Food Security Sector

Programme No: A5-19

Programme Title:

Rehabilitation of the Date Palm sector in Iraq

Participating Organization(s):

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
– Lead Executing Agency
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
(UNIDO) – Collaborating Agency

Implementing Partners:

MoA- Ministry of Agriculture
MoT - Ministry of Trade
Iraqi Date Processing and Marketing

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

FAO: USD 4 886 663
UNIDO:

Programme Duration (in months):

Start date: April 2007
End date: October 2008
First Extension: 31 December 2009
Second Extension: 30 June 2010

I. Purpose

Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme.

The development goal of this project is to create productive employment and improve food security through increased agricultural production and productivity. The immediate outcomes are:

- rehabilitation and modernization of the date production system;
- introduction of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) aiming to control the main date palm pests and diseases in respect of local eco-systems;
- improvement of the date value chain from harvest to market in order to meet the local demand and international requirements. This will result in better access to markets and higher farm income; and
- strengthened capacities and capabilities of support institutions to create a date palm research and training centre (DPRTC) focusing on post harvest activities.

The expected outputs are:

- date palm tissue culture laboratory set up;
- modern date plantations established;
- IPM programme identified and developed;
- capability of entrepreneurs and staff in the date processing sector enhanced;
- selected date storage, packaging and processing facilities improved and enabled to act as models for the specific region;
- products of selected pilot enterprises meet international requirements;
- new forms of cooperation along the value chain started;
- Date marketing organization supported in promoting Iraq dates in international markets; and
- Date Palm Research Institute upgraded and equipped according to the new tasks.

Explain how the programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operation of the Fund.

The project was designed within the framework of the Joint UN Iraq Assistance Strategy 2006-2007. Specifically, this project is housed within Cluster A of the framework, Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management, with special focus on the following goals: (i) support economic and human development and sustainable management of natural resources; and (ii) assist in the provision of basic services and promotion of community development participation.

Furthermore, the project contributes towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular those related to poverty reduction. This is being achieved through job creation, community building and development in rural areas as a result of the financial gains generated along the date value chain and its related businesses.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

Provide information on other funding resources available to the project if applicable.

Not applicable.

Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.

A budget revision with movement of funds between project budget components was approved by the Steering Committee Support Office (SCSO) to cover the first project extension requested until 31 December 2009.

Provide information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.

The collaboration between FAO-UNIDO and the counterpart ministries offers the opportunity for all the partners to pool their complementary expertise for efficient utilization of the financial resources. Complementary technical expertise between the two agencies is parallel with their commitment to improve administrative efficiency and lower operational costs of project implementation. So far there has been no constraint to the financial process.

Human Resources

National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

UNIDO has one National Project Coordinator (NPC) stationed in Baghdad to liaise with the respective government authorities especially with Ministry of Trade (MOT) and the Date Palm Processing and Marketing Corporation (DPMC). FAO is liaising closely with General Board for Date Palm (GBDP) and is holding regular technical meetings in Amman. Other FAO management and administrative staff relocated to Amman are co-shared with other UNDG ITF projects.

During the reporting period the local staff recruited in Amman office to assist the project in 2008 continued to provide their services till June 2009. In addition, a resident engineer has been appointed to supervise construction works for the tissue culture laboratory. On UNIDO side, an expert in date quality control and Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) has been recruited by UNIDO in 2009 to support the international area who was recruited for same activity.

International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

A Program Manager, recruited through a web published vacancy, joined FAO-Iraq team based in Amman, Jordan in March 2009. In addition, during the reporting period, an international date palm specialist was temporarily employed by FAO to work with MoA representative to finalize the training manuals on Good Agricultural Practices for the cultivation of date palm which will be used during national training of farmers as well as extension workers. UNIDO has recruited two international consultants for the second phase of the training in HACCP and International Standardization Organization-22000 (ISO-22000).

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

The project is jointly implemented by UNIDO and FAO, in order to utilize their complementary expertise for the benefit of the project. While FAO concentrates on rehabilitating the agricultural production of the

date palms, UNIDO is responsible for developing date processing, marketing and assisting Iraq's institutions and entrepreneurs to develop the date palm industry.

The project is being implemented from the FAO and UNIDO Project Management Units for Iraq in Amman where the Program Manager is based and from Baghdad through NPCs. In addition, at the headquarters of the two agencies (Rome and Vienna), operations officers and technical experts are assigned to coordinate the overall planning and implementation of the project. UNIDO has also recruited a Technical Advisor in Amman and a National Project Coordinator based in Baghdad.

The primary implementing mechanism adopted to maximize projects inputs is the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which meets regularly in the FAO office, Amman. These meetings serve to enable face to face encounters between the representatives of the two implementing agencies and the government counterparts.

UNIDO conducts technical consultation meetings with counterparts (Ministry of Trade and Iraqi Date Palm processing and marketing company) to discuss the technical problems and discuss the constraints and solutions as they arise, which has contributed to successful implementation of the project activities.

In order to deal with unpredictability of the security and political situation which could impact implementation of the project, ad hoc meetings between agencies and the project staff in Amman are also taking place and will be used to respond to challenges that may arise.

Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

The standard FAO/UNIDO procurement procedures were followed for this project. The procurement is done through a process that follows the sequence:

- identification of inputs or services required, undertaken jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry;
- preparation of detailed specifications, BoQ, drawings, delivery time and destination undertaken by FAO and the Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter;
- list of local potential suppliers provided by the Iraqi Line Ministry to be included by FAO in its invitations to bid;
- tenders launched by FAO inviting local and international potential suppliers;
- technical review of the offers received and preparation of recommendation carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter; and
- Purchase orders or contracts issued by FAO.

Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

In order to assess the progress of project activities, in-house financial and narrative progress reports are used on a regular basis. One such report is a monthly field activity report to follow-up on the project activities in relation to the work plan. Another report is a monthly report provided by the financial department of the Iraq offices of both UN agencies detailing the expenditure of project funds. A Project Management Unit (PMU) with offices in Amman, Jordan and Anbar evaluate these reports along with other reports to monitor and assess the progress of projects.

The implementation of this project is also supported by the FAO Project Task Force (PTF) meetings held with the lead technical units. These units have the prime responsibility of ensuring that technical

supervision is provided and maximum results achieved during the project implementation, notwithstanding the challenging operating context and remote management. A number of project activities such as trainings and study tours have been carried out outside of Iraq to ensure the safe encounter between FAO technical officers and Iraqi experts involved in the project implementation.

In addition, there are Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. The PSC meetings happen regularly (at least once every six months) in the FAO-Iraq, Amman office. Given the complex operating context and challenges posed by the security situation in Iraq, the PSC meetings are opportunities used to discuss problems as well as achievements while ensuring full transparency and accountability of activities throughout project implementation.

The above meetings provide the forum for lessons learnt to be discussed and applied to the continuation of the project.

Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken

Back in 2008 an assessment survey was conducted by FAO on the state of date palm production in the country, including the state of date trees and existing varieties. The survey covered thirteen governorates of mid and southern Iraq. The survey includes information on methods of orchard management, ownership of resources, gender perspective on division of labor and requirements for primary training.

In addition, UNIDO also conducted a detailed technological, management and marketing assessment of the date palm industries in Iraq. The assessment was used to design the interventions of the project, identify the model industry and the extent of support that could be provided to improve the quality of the dates produced.

IV. Results

Provide a summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the reporting period

The planned development goal of this project is to create productive employment, and improve food security through increased agricultural production and productivity by improving on farm and post harvest practices and building capacity of research and development institutes and entrepreneurs. To achieve the above, suitable training program have been conducted and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) prepared. Equipment for production and, harvest and post harvest management procured and delivered to increase date production in Iraq. The tissue culture laboratory is being constructed which will help fast rehabilitation of the date orchards with new high value and more productive date varieties.

Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including the number and nature of the activities (inputs), percentage of completion and beneficiaries.

1. Assessment made and site selected (output 1.1)

This output is 95% complete. The assessment surveys were finalized in March 2008. The content of these reports is too technical and fragmented to be used without additional analysis. Although the sites to be used for this project have been chosen by GBDP and not through the surveys, there is a need to compile information available into a more comprehensive report to assist policy makers when making future investments in this sector. Given that this would be additional activity not planned in the original project document it is a subject to availability of funds saved under other project components. Three

demonstration sites to demonstrate good agricultural practices and five IPM sites have been selected for project interventions.

2. Date palm tissue culture laboratory set up (output 1.2)

This output is 70% complete. In January 2008 at the second PSC meeting held at FAO's premises in Amman, GBDP requested that the funds available under this project should be primarily used to build a new tissue culture laboratory as GBDP currently does not have any suitable buildings where it can conduct research or undertake mass propagation of date palms. The construction of such a laboratory was not envisaged in the original project document, the designated budget or in the time framework. However, it was agreed by all parties that without a functioning laboratory to perform mass propagation of date palms, purchasing and hardening of tissue culture derived from date palms (as included in the original project document) and other scheduled activities, the project's objectives could not be implemented. It was further discussed and agreed amongst technical experts present at the meeting that *in vitro* mass propagation was one of the methods which would facilitate fastest replacement of trees that were depleted in high volumes during the past two decades in Iraq. However, this type of propagation, highly sensitive to external infection, requires suitable laboratories and the use of modern technology. Therefore, the revised proposal to use funds under this project to construct such a facility with necessary utilities for immediate functioning was supported by all the PSC members. Finally, it was agreed that the building would have production capacity of 50 000 plants per year tailored to the country needs.

In addition to the above, the purchase of a glasshouse, five greenhouses and a number of shade houses was also agreed upon, considering that the propagation process itself necessitates such facilities.

Based on the guidance of FAO's technical division, a design for the building was prepared and endorsed by GBDP in March 2008. A tender was issued for preparation of BoQ and necessary drawings. A national company, working under supervision of GBDP, was selected to prepare the necessary documentation which became available only in September 2008. FAO's technical divisions reviewed carefully draft BoQ and detailed drawings submitted and provided a number of recommendations for their modifications in view of ensuring appropriate international architectural standards. Based on these recommendations the document was modified accordingly during December 2008 and a tender for civil work contract was issued in January 2009. The selection of offers received at the end of February was conducted and the recommendations for the selection of winning the bidder became available in March 2009. Before issuing a contract for civil works supporting documentation has been made available to the GBDP for their review.

During the third PSC meeting held early April 2009, the case of the issuance of the contract for construction of tissue culture laboratory was reviewed together with financial situation and budgetary constrains in this project. It was decided that the tissue culture laboratory should be built as a priority. This necessarily meant that cuts to funds designated for other project activities had to be made and budget moved between originally designated budget lines. During the PSC meeting it was decided to cut down a number of trainings originally planned for each component, to change shade houses to multi span in attempt to reduce the cost, and limit procurement of the glasshouse and the multi span to USD 300 000 maximum. This decision had to be taken since offers received against the tender for construction works for the tissue culture laboratory were very high and above any expectations.

In the light of the above, it has to be noted that a fundamental amendment made to the project objectives during the second PSC meeting, inevitably required project extension beyond the original end date of May 2009, together with a substantial change in budget allocations. Accordingly, the project extension and budget extension request was submitted and approved by the Trust Fund to extend the project till December 2009. Later, due to delay from MoA on construction of a new tissue culture laboratory further extension was requested in December 2009, and the Trust Fund approved the project extension till June 2010.

Subsequent to the PSC meeting and at the time that the contract for civil works was about to be issued, FAO was contacted by the Deputy Minister of the MoA and asked to prepare a short review on the status of the project implementation and advise on alternatives for using funds available under the project. The letter was sent to the Deputy Minister mid June 2009. One of the suggested options was to omit the construction of the tissue culture laboratory and focus more on human capacity building under this project. However, a reply authorizing FAO to proceed with initial plan to use the resources to build a tissue culture laboratory was received from the MoA mid July 2009. In line with this decision, FAO completed issuance of the contractual agreement in October 2009. The MoA handed over the site to the contractor in late November and the civil works are now in progress.

The three planned international trainings under this component have been conducted. First training was on DNA markers technology for genetic diversity and date palm improvement, the second was on propagation of date palm with tissue culture techniques, and the third was on use of DNA sequencing equipment.

The equipment for the tissue culture laboratory jointly identified by GBDP and an FAO recruited international tissue culture specialist has been procured and delivered to Al Rabea date palm station where construction of the tissue culture laboratory is in progress. The equipment purchased will be installed by the GBDP.

3. Modern date plantations established (output 1.3)

This activity is 95% complete. Delivery of the equipment procured by FAO for the selected demonstration farms has been completed. The equipment includes small and big tractors, date palm pollinators, cooling room for conservation of date fruit, power generators, forklifts, trailer and ridgers, vehicles and small laboratory field equipment. It is expected that this equipment is used for national trainings on Good Agricultural Practices to be held by the GBDP for extension workers and date growers.

A manual covering the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for date palm production has been prepared by a group of experts from the date palm institute in Iraq. Final technical review, including external consultancy to review and edit the manual, has been completed. The final outcome was discussed at the last third PSC meeting but could not be agreed upon due to differences in opinion of the PSC members on certain aspects of the GAP manual. It was decided that the manual would be jointly reviewed by representatives from MoA and FAO to finalize the draft to be ready for printing. An international date palm expert was recruited by FAO who met the MoA representative in Amman on 12 and 13 July and produced consensus version of the manual, which is now in printing.

Five extension workers and managers of date palm stations belonging to GBDP received training on GAP at the Arab Centre for Studies on Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD) in Syria from 9 to 20 May 2008.

The training, organized by FAO was aimed at the application of good agricultural practices such as pest control, irrigation, fertilization, harvesting etc., in date palm cultivation.

Two GBDP staff members received training on database management aiming to increase their competence in modern and validated methods of technology transfer programs on database design and management systems adoptable for the use in the agricultural sector.

Twenty seven extension workers from date palm stations belonging to the GBDP received training in June 2009 on modern tissue culture techniques at the University of Al-Nehran in Baghdad. The training was aimed at building capacity of the GBDP/MoA extension staff in date palm tissue culture technology and developing their skills in *in-vitro* mass propagation which would enable replacement of date palm trees that have been depleted in high volumes during the past two decades in Iraq.

Twenty nine extension workers from date palm stations belonging to the GBDP received training in July 2009 on good agricultural practices for date palm management in Baghdad.

It has been agreed at the third PSC meeting in April 2009, to reduce the originally planned five trainings to two, subject to savings on procurement of multi span and glasshouse.

4. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme (outputs 2.1 - 2.5)

A study tour for Iraqi decision makers on IPM was organized by FAO from 20 to 22 April 2008 in Jordan. Iraqi officials from MoA and Ministry of Higher Education attended this meeting. Several issues were discussed including the ongoing FAO regional IPM programme in the Near-East and potential collaboration with the current date palm project. In particular, the farmer field schools (FFS) concept as methodology in IPM was explained through various presentations given by the Chief Technical Officer of the FAO regional programme. The possibility of applying such methodology in Iraq, given the persistent security situation, was also discussed during the workshop. Given that the safe movement of facilitators and farmers, necessary for the effective implementation of this methodology, is hindered by the difficult security situation in most areas of Iraq, it was agreed that the cooperation between GBDP and FAO Regional Programme should be explored further. Iraqi experts should have the opportunity to avail themselves of existing training facilities in the region. This meeting was an important step in the development of the IPM/FFS strategy in date palm production in Iraq.

Study tour for government official on FFS for IPM took place in Jordan in June 2008 while two week training for Iraqi extension workers was held by FAO's Regional IPM Programme for Near East at NCARE facilities in Amman from 17 to 27 August 2008.

The location of laboratories for rearing of biological control agents have been selected to be Basra University for rearing microbial agents and the MoA laboratory in Abu Ghraib for rearing parasitoids. These laboratories already have good experience in IPM technology and are working in close collaboration with the GBDP. Procurement of the requested equipment for these laboratories has been completed and equipment delivered to Al Rabea date palm station in Baghdad. The GBDP is responsible for on forwarding of equipment to respective IPM labs. Bio-control agents for the two laboratories for rearing of microbial agents have not been procured pending no objection certificate from the MoA.

In addition to these laboratories, the GBDP has also selected five field stations for IPM field trials and demonstration. Equipment for these field stations has also been received by the GBDP.

A consultant recruited in 2008, has completed a draft programme on IPM technology to be implemented under this project, including the international training, the national training and field experimentation. Out of a number of planned trainings, the following have been completed till compilation of this report:

IPM/fungi training at ICARDA in Syria, 17 to 27 August 2008 for five trainees. The objective of this training was to learn about the use of insects – killing fungi - for the management of pests. The trainees will be involved in the implementation of project activities in Iraq as well as in extension services.

IPM/parasite and predator training at Biological Control Laboratories, the MoA in Syria, 25 October to 4 November 2008 for six trainees. The objective of this training was to learn about biological control of date palm pests by using promising parasitoids and predatory species. The trainees will be involved in the implementation of project activities in Iraq as well as in extension services.

Additional training on FFS for IPM specific to date palm cultivations was planned to be conducted at already existing date farms in Iran. However, at the third PSC meeting in April 2009 it has been decided to conduct this training if additional funding was approved by UNDG ITF. This training was cancelled since there was no approval for additional funding. The PSC cancelled the training of researchers planned in Egypt on the rearing of predator nematodes due to shortage of funds and difficulty in obtaining visas for Iraqi participants.

In addition to above thirty eight extension workers from date palm stations belonging to the GBDP received training in August 2009 on basic IPM in Baghdad.

5. Capability of entrepreneurs and staff in the date processing sector enhanced (output 3.1)

Three members of the Date Palm Processing and Marketing Company and Ministry of Trade participated in an international fair in Turkey for the promotion of the Iraq date products and for engaging business negotiations with entrepreneurs from all over the world, organized by UNIDO. Furthermore, international and national consultants were recruited to prepare an intensive training in food safety and quality management from the farm to the fork. Manuals are prepared to train twenty trainers from different industries as well as the representatives from MoA and MoT, all of whom are engaged in date processing and marketing. A two-week theory and practical training has been conducted in Amman in August 2009.

6. Selected date storage, packaging and processing facilities improved and enabled to act as models for the specific region (output 3.2)

A date palm processing and marketing company in Baghdad (Shalchia) was identified /selected for rehabilitation after independent assessment (by international consulting company) by UNIDO and the government counterparts. The date processing company agreed with UNIDO to take over the cost of the factory rehabilitation, of the building, installation of the cold stores and provision and installation of the fumigation chambers as in-kind contribution to the project funding. On the other hand, the allocated budget for the rehabilitation was used to buy important extra equipments for the factory. The rehabilitation tasks at the Shalchia factory have been partially completed, which includes installation of water and power supplies, reconstruction of the factory building.

The procurement, installation and commissioning of the main date processing equipment has been completed. Operational tests for the processing equipment have also been completed and will be fully operational in the next production season.

The construction and installation of the cold stores, installation of the fumigation chambers will be finalized by the DPMC in the last quarter of the year.

7. Products of selected pilot enterprises meet international requirements (output 3.3)

This activity is 60% complete. The project has trained 16 key personnel on the basic food safety, hygiene, good manufacturing practices and HACCP as trainers. These trainers have in turn trained more than 40 staff of the DPMC.

Hygienic conditions at the Shalchia factory have been maintained to present the factory as a model in the area for the date industry in Iraq. Key personnel of the factory and officials from MoT have been trained on various aspects of phyto sanitary principles specific to date processing.

In the second round training of trainers, 17 staff members from the DMPC and the MOT have been trained in advanced HACPP and GCC (Global net certification Committee) approved ISO-22000 internal auditor training. From the 17 trainers, 9 of them have been successfully certified as ISO-22000-2005 internal auditor (the first kind of certification in the country in sector).

These qualified internal auditors will continue to work on the gap analysis and implementation for the certification of the model factory for HACCP and ISO-22000 which will facilitate the effort of the Iraq Date palm industries effort to export value added date palm products.

8. New forms of cooperation along the value chain started (output 3.4)

The vertical integration of the date's value chain is under process. Two joint trainings and study tours on agricultural production processing and marketing organized for experts have been completed.

A training and demonstration pilot plant has been established at the MoA research centre to train farmers in better post harvest practices. The construction of the pilot training centre has been completed and the equipment has been delivered to MOA by UNIDO. The building for pilot plant has also been completed by UNIDO and handed-over to MOA in June 2009. After the installation of the equipment, MOA will use the new facility to train the date palm growers (farmers) in post harvest handling of the date palm products.

9. Strengthening the date marketing organization (output 3.5)

This component was cancelled during the second PSC meeting held in Amman in January 2008 due to the abolishment of the date marketing organization by the Government. Instead, it was agreed during the meeting, to build capacity of the MoT's marketing unit by providing assistance such as participation in international exhibitions, reported under the capacity building above.

Explain, if relevant, delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.

The construction of the tissue culture laboratory was not included in the original project document. As explained above, the objectives of the project have been changed to include new activity on civil works

which require additional time and re- allocation of funds. Consequently, the closure of the project has been delayed for a year.

List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results

The main collaboration is between FAO and UNIDO in joint implementation of this project. Complementary technical expertise between the two agencies is parallel with their commitment to improve administrative efficiency and lower operational costs of project implementation. This in turn, ensures that the highest quality of project outputs is achieved.

The following partners/institutions have collaborated/ provided their facilities for the study tours, trainings and workshops conducted under this project: National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT - Jordan); Arab Center for Studies on Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD -Syria); International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Area (ICARDA - Syria); Biological Control Laboratories / MoA / Syria; and Al-Nehran University in Baghdad.

Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

The production of date palm trees through the tissue culture technique will support the rehabilitation of state plantations and will provide job opportunities in those areas.

The control of diseases through IPM technology and GAP will limit the use of pesticides in date palm production which will improve the local environment.

V. Future Work Plan

Summarize the projected activities and expenditures for the following reporting period (1 January- 31 December 2010), using the lessons learned during the previous reporting period.

With regards to civil works, the main activities will be:

The completion of the tissue culture laboratory will be taken as priority among the other activities. Monitoring system for this activity has been put in place through recruitment of the Resident Engineer and with assistance of technical backstopping division in Rome.

The procurement and delivery of equipment has been completed for all components of the project. During the next reporting period the main activities related to equipment will be:

- Distribution and installation of the purchased equipment pertaining to IPM laboratory, IPM demonstration farms, tissue culture laboratory, greenhouses and multispan; and
- Delivery and installation of equipment for the rehabilitation of the processing unit with some more new production lines.

Suggested outstanding activities for each component:

Tissue culture lab:

1. construction works;
2. installation of delivered equipment;
3. national trainings;
4. installation of greenhouses.

Demonstration farms component:

1. carrying out of national trainings for farmers;
2. printing GAP manuals to be used for the above trainings.

IPM component

1. installation of purchased equipment for the two IPM labs;
2. carrying out lab and field experiments;
3. establishment of IPM/FFS at five locations where security situation is permitting.

Date processing component

1. delivery and installation of equipment for the rehabilitation of the processing unit with additional production lines.

VI. Performance Indicators

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Means of Verification	Comments (if any)
IP Outcome 1 Rehabilitation and modernisation of the date production system						
IP Output 1.1 Assessments made and site selected	To assist the Iraqi Government to collect latest information on date palm sector to be used for priority planning for rehabilitation of date palm sector.	To cover various date sector areas such as production, processing, marketing, etc.	To make available a comprehensive report on the current state of the date sector in Iraq and main requirements for its rehabilitation.	Three assessment reports produced covering various areas of this sector.	Assessment Reports	Three assessment reports completed. Looking into producing comprehensive report to be used by MoA when planning future rehabilitation activities in this sector.
IP Output 1.2 Date palm tissue culture laboratory set up	To assist General Board for Date Palm (GBDP) to speed up mass propagation of date trees needed to increase current rates of date production.	Building capacities of GBDP to undertake research and provide assistance to farmers through extension services.	To construct a modern tissue culture laboratory, equipped with needed equipment and complimentary facilities (greenhouses, shade houses).	Identified equipment has been purchased and delivered.	Fully equipped tissue culture laboratory and side facilities (greenhouse and shade houses)	This objective has changed from rehabilitation of an existing lab to construction of a new laboratory.
IP Output 1.3 Modern date plantations established	To provide technical assistance to GBDP to upgrade date plantations to be used for research and training.	Three state owned date plantations selected for this project by the GBDP.	To provide basic equipment and machinery.	100%	The list and adequacy of equipment delivered to the sites.	More national trainings to be conducted in 2010. GAP Manuals will be ready for printing by end of
			To conduct national and international trainings.	90%	Training schedules, attendance lists.	
			To assist GBDP to develop adequate	90%	Number of manuals printed and distributed.	

			training material for agricultural practices.			first quarter of next year.
IP Outcome 2 Introducing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) aiming at controlling the main date palm pests and diseases in respect of local eco-systems						
IP Output 2.1 IPM programme identified and developed	Assist the MoA to develop IPM program suitable for Iraqi conditions.	Current government practices and capacities of extension services.	To assess and agree on strategy to implement IPM program in Iraq.	100%	Minutes of the meetings and workshops.	
IP Output 2.2 Training material developed for local trainees and trainers with assistance of int. experts	Providing technical assistance to the MoA for human capacity building.	Current trainings provided by GBDP.	To develop training material to be used during the field exercises.	80%	A number of training materials distributed.	
IP Output 2.3 IPM program suitable for Iraqi conditions designed.	Same as above.					
IP Output 2.4 TOT for IPM/FFS potential facilitators carried out	Capacity building of extension workers to promote IPM/FFS.	Extension services.	To provide training on dissemination tactics of the IPM/FFS.	80%	International and national trainings, number of participants and relevance of training programs.	
IP Output 2.5 Pilot IPM/FFS programme to disseminate IPM tactics to farmers designed	Assist GBDP to incorporate FFS concept into IPM program.	Extension works activities in date sector.		0%	A number of Pilot Programmes carried out in the field.	Equipment needed to carry out field activities has been delivered.
IP Outcome 3 Improving the date value chain from harvest to market in order to meet local demand and international requirements thus enhancing the access to markets and resulting in higher farm income						
IP Output 3.1 Capability of entrepreneurs and staff in the date processing sector enhanced	Technical and managerial staff of the selected date palm processing and marketing companies trained to improve the performance of the dates industry	No qualified staff in dates processing, QC and HACCP and GMP	All the staff in Model industry and others trained in hygiene GMP, HACCP and certified	20 Trainers trained to train the technical staff in the factories s	Training reports Report of the quality of the products	The second round of training of trainers planned for July August , The training of the technicians by trainers will start in June

IP Output 3.2 Selected date storage, packaging and processing facilities improved and enabled to act as models for the specific region	Model industry with the highest technology and quality standard established	Very old, industry with low quality products	Model industry with quality, packaging and safe product	Building rehab underway, modern equipment procured	Reports from industries	DPMC is contributing in the construction of the building UNIDO is procuring extra equipment
					Means of Verification	
IP Output 3.3 Products of selected pilot enterprises meet international standards	The technology and manpower to produce high quality dates products are made available	No quality assurance system	Products that meet the national quality standards produced I model industries	The technology and training for high quality products being provided	The rehabilitation reports	
IP Output 3.4 New forms of cooperation along the value chain started	The value chain actors are cooperating to improve the quality dates supply	No or little cooperation between the farmers and the industries	Farmers are trained to improve the quality and quantity of the date supply to the industries	Pilot plan for the training of farmers being provided	Report of the training farmers	
IP Output 3.5 Strengthening the date marketing organisation	The MOT staff participate in international dates trade fair	Very little international contact for the date marketing specially the packed dates	DPMC and MOT establish international marketing channels through participation in trade fairs	The DPMC and MOT participated in two international exhibitions on dates and established international marketing channels	Report of exhibitions participation and the increase in international value trade of the dates from Iraq	The marketing board for dates has been abolished. Instead, the support is being provided to DPMC and MOT

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

BoQ	Bill of Quantities
DPRTC	Date Palm Research and Training Centre
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HACCP	Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoT	Ministry of Trade
PSC	Project Steering Committee
NPC	National Project Coordinators

UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
DPMC	Date Palm Processing and Marketing Corporation
GBDP	General Board for Date Palm
PMU	Project Management Unit
PTF	Project Task Force
ACSAD	Arab Centre for Studies on Arid Zones and Dry Land
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
GCC	Global Net Certification Committee
NCARTT	National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Area